

**CONFIDENTIAL.]**

[No. 14 of 1896.]

# REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

## Week ending the 4th April 1896.

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Nil		

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000	29th March, 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	28th ditto.	
3	"Baniya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	27th ditto.	
4	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	31st ditto.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	27th ditto.	
6	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	.....		
7	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500	28th ditto.	
8	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	25th ditto.	
9	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	27th ditto.	
10	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	28th ditto.	
11	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	30th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	350		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	1,000	26th and 29th to 31st March, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	27th and 30th March and 1st April, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Furnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	27th, 28th 30th and 31st March, 1896.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	26th March, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	30th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000	25th, 27th, 28th and 29th March, 1896.	
<b>PAKISTAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hubbul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	.....	25th March, 1896.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussultanat and Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	310	26th March, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto	330	24th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>					
<i>Fortsightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	24th March, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550	29th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....		
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	27th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	826	25th March, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200	27th ditto.	
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	27th ditto.	
<b>URIYA.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack	160		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto	.....		
3	"Shikhabandhu" ...	Ditto	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj	.....	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190		
3	"Urya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	480		
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	500		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	1,000	21st March, 1896.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500		
	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400	28rd March, 1896.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	195	25th March, 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180		
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	600	March, 1896.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	244	27th March, 1896.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	24th ditto.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	29th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do.	About 440	28th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca	240	26th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	500	30th March 1896.	"
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla	700	2nd fortnight Falgoon, 1302 B. S.	
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	120		
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet	....		
<b>ASSAM.</b>					

## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 24th March publishes a cartoon on the rumoured Russo-Turkish alliance. The alliance is represented by a bridge over a gulf, and

England is represented as a boatman, who is regretting the construction of the bridge in this way:—"Who has built this bridge which interferes with my business?"

2. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 30th March has the following:—

The Soudan expedition.

It appears that England is making preparations on a grand and magnificent scale to send an expedition against the Mahdi of the Soudan in order to be avenged for the ignominious defeat which she, not many years ago, sustained at the hands of his predecessor. The followers of the Mahdi are quite ready to meet their old foes once more. A *jehad* is being preached against the English people everywhere in the Soudan; and it seems that France, Turkey and Russia, too, do not mean to sit idly when England goes so far simply to strengthen her supremacy over Egypt at Egypt's expense.

France will take this golden opportunity of calling England to account for her occupation of Egypt, and Turkey will have every right to say that her feudatory ruler, the Khedive, has no power to follow England without the consent of his suzerain; that the proposed expedition will involve Egypt in another debt, and that England is misguiding Egypt. On the other hand, Russia, who is the most formidable power in the world and who has been long watching for an opportunity to invade India, will have her object fulfilled if England is compelled to evacuate Egypt, and in that way to lose her shortest route to her Indian possessions.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

3. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 25th March has heard various

The death in the Murshidabad rumours regarding the alleged case of suicide, *hajut*, which occurred in the *hajut* of the Manulla bazar

(Baluchar) thana, in the Murshidabad district. Some people have been heard to say that the way in which the body was tied by the neck to a window bar makes it improbable that death was owing to suicide. The Civil Surgeon deposed to the man having died from suffocation. But cannot death by suffocation result from any other cause than hanging? At any rate, the case ought to be carefully investigated. Had the daroga any right to keep the man in *hajut* without a guard only on suspicion?

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th March says that the local police having

A special police force in certain been found incapable of coping with the *badmashes* villages in Backergunge. in certain villages in the Backergunge district,

the Lieutenant-Governor has quartered a special police force in those villages. The cost of this police force is to be borne by the villagers. It is not easy to understand how the innocent among the villagers can be justly required to bear the cost of this special police. His Honour ought to consider whether in this case innocent persons are not being punished for the incompetency of the police.

5. One Samuel Biswas writes to the same paper from Munshi bazar,

Oppression by constables at the Assansole, as follows:—  
Assansole bazar.

On the 18th March last, at about 8.30 A.M., a constable of this thana came to the Assansole bazar, with a chaukidar of that bazar, and attempted to take fish from a fisherwoman, named Gangamani, without payment. The woman having refused to give him fish without payment, the constable caught hold of her and her basket, and threatened to take her to the thana. The poor woman was thus compelled to propitiate the constable with about a *powa* of fish. It is a common practice with constables to take things in this way in the bazar without payment.

6. The same paper learns from a correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* that

Oppression by two Europeans in Feringibazar, Chittagong.

lately, at the instance of a European woman, two Europeans cruelly beat a shop-keeper in Feringibazar, Chittagong. The European woman herself

GENERAL AND  
GAUHARI ASFI,  
Mar. 24th, 1896.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 30th, 1896.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Mar. 25th, 1896.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

HITAVADI.

HITAVADI.

joined in the beating. Not content with this, the two Europeans took the shop-keeper to the hotel, where the woman lives, and there made him dance like a bear for the amusement of the European woman. The shop-keeper was then taken back to the bazar handcuffed. The Europeans then proclaimed aloud that whoever would insult European ladies would be treated in that way. But what, after all, was the shop-keeper's offence? The head and front of his offence was that he had refused to give the European woman a few annas which she asked as a loan, and had pressed her for the payment of a former loan! One of the Europeans is an employé of the local police. The Editor cannot bring himself to believe this story. But if it is true, the offenders ought to be severely punished.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

7. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 28th March understands that there is a standing Bengal Police circular to the effect that in a case in which a woman of less than twenty years commits suicide, the dead body should be removed to

A police circular about suicide by young women.  
the Sadar for *post-mortem* examination, even if there be unquestionable evidence to prove the suicide. An inquiry should be made whether there is any such circular really in existence. It is a fact that in the mufassal the police harass people under the pretext of this circular, and have often to be bribed to certify that the age of a woman committing suicide is above twenty years, and thus to prevent the dead body from being subjected to the indignity of a *post-mortem* examination. An interpellation on the subject should be made in the Legislative Council to draw the attention of the Government to the matter.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

8. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th March publishes the following letter:—

"On the 8th February last we reached Chandranath. Before we started on our pilgrimage the District Magistrate of Chittagong passed his order

The high handedness of the Mahant of Chandranath.  
on the petition of the Mahant of Sitakunda and also on the petition of the Hindus of the district. The order was that the "usual steps would be taken to admit all persons who were unable to pay without payment." Notwithstanding this order, however, we were refused admission into the temple by the Mahant's men. We accordingly lodged a complaint with Mr. J. Emerson, Assistant Magistrate of Chittagong, and that officer ordered the Sub-Inspector of Police, Sitakunda, to admit us free, after enquiring if we were really poor and unable to pay the usual eight annas. With the Assistant Magistrate's order in our hands we went out the next day searching the Sub-Inspector in right earnest. The Mahant had bamboo walls running parallel to one another erected outside the temple. At the gate of the first wall a number of five or six hundred pilgrims were huddled together, humbly praying for admission. A man was selling tickets, eight annas each, to these men, and the *durwans* at the gate prevented all who had no tickets from entering. Even those who had tickets were refused entrance by the *durwans*, if they were not paid something as a bribe. The pilgrims were most unceremoniously treated, and many of them were even thrashed. The mortification of the disappointed pilgrims was very great, and their ill-treatment by the Mahant's myrmidons was pitiable in the extreme. Two constables were on duty at the gate, and police officers were moving about. To a question put by us the constables replied that they were instructed to prevent oppression by the Mahant's men, but their superior officers themselves remained indifferent, and they could not but follow their example. We could not find the Police Sub-Inspector of Sitakunda at the first gate, and were told that he was on duty at the second gate. We attempted to make our way towards the second gate, but were opposed by the Mahant's *durwans*. After great difficulty we reached the second gate, where we heard Babu Jogendranath Bhattacharyya, Police Inspector, Chittagong, telling the Mahant's agent that he should admit poor pilgrims free and order his men not to ill-treat them. We told the Police Inspector that pilgrims were being very cruelly treated at the first gate. Upon this he and his men went towards the first gate to preserve order. Before they had reached the first gate, however, the Mahant's agent invited him to his master's drawing-room. After half-an-hour the police officers, headed by the Police Superintendent, came out and proclaimed that none should be granted admission into the temple without the payment of eight annas. The Mahant's men thus emboldened began to mercilessly thrash all pilgrims who attempted to gain an entrance without the

payment of the usual fee. An old man of sixty or sixty-five was being beaten almost to death, and on our attempting to rescue him we too were mercilessly thrashed. We had, therefore, to beat a retreat. We were about to sit down to dinner when the Assistant Magistrate, the Police Superintendent, the Police Inspector, the Assistant Magistrate's *peshkar*, Babu Bireswar Das, and a few others took us to the Assistant Magistrate's bungalow. After making us wait there for a long time, they sent us back to our place, but again took us, bag and baggage, to the Assistant Magistrate's bungalow. They then took down our names and addresses, and sent us to the police-station, where we were not very courteously accosted by the Police Inspector. We were made to wait long in the *thana* compound. The Police Inspector took down our deposition, and then sent us back to the Assistant Magistrate's bungalow. From that place we were taken to the railway station by a Musalman Police Sub-Inspector and forced into the train. When coming from the *thana* we asked the Police Inspector why we were thus treated, and he told us that we had better not call for an explanation. The thing was that we were not to be allowed to stay at Sita-kunda for a moment longer.

Dwarkanath Mitra,

*Student, second-year class, Raj Chandra College, Barisal.*

Rasik Chandra Basu,

*Student, first class, Gosainhat High School, Faridpur.*

Girindra Chandra Mitra,

*Student, second-year class, Brajmohan College, Barisal."*

9. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 29th March thanks Sir John Lambert

Relief of the sufferers from the Kidderpore fire. for the meeting which he called in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of

collecting subscriptions for the relief of the people

who suffered by the Kidderpore fire. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is to be thanked for the donation he has made to the fund.

10. Commission of theft, observes the *Dacca Prakash* of the 29th March,

Theft in Vikrampur. has become very frequent of late in Vikrampur,

in the Dacca district. There have been as many

as 17 or 18 cases of house-breaking and theft in one year in the villages of Rujdi, Tantar, Puranabag, Bibandi, and Dakshin Charigao in Vikrampur. The police have not yet been able to trace the thefts in a single instance, but have been known to have had a hand in the commission of some of them. There was some time ago a theft committed in the house of the Gangoolis of Rujdi, and a constable's *pagri* was discovered in the house! It was suspected that this *pagri* belonged to Umedali Munshi, a chaukidar of Dakshin Charigao. He was examined, his house was searched, and a note-book, which was in a box stolen from the house, was discovered in his lodging. The chaukidar, however, denied his guilt, and said that he had found the book in a field, which was impossible, considering that there were rains the night the theft took place, and the note-book bore no mark of having been drenched. The police, however, let off the chaukidar.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

11. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 24th March observes that the appointment

Administration of civil justice in Burdwan. of an Additional Subordinate Judge in Burdwan has greatly facilitated the disposal of the appeal cases which had accumulated for years. The heavy

file of original cases also should be cleared, and the Additional Subordinate Judge should be required to dispose of not only the appeal cases pending for a long time, but also the original cases which remain untried up to this day. The District Judge had most probably the intention of transferring a number of old original cases to the file of the Additional Subordinate Judge after he had disposed of the pending appeal cases. But the High Court has called upon him to report if the Additional Subordinate Judge could not be set free at the end of the present quarter. If the Additional Subordinate Judge is removed so soon from Burdwan, litigants will be again put to great inconvenience. No less than six months will be required to clear the files and make the course of civil justice in

*DAINIK BHARAT  
MITRA,*

Mar. 29th, 1896.

*DACCA PRAKASH,*  
Mar. 29th, 1896.

*BURWDAN SANJIVANI,*  
Mar. 4th 1896.

Burdwan run smooth. The purpose of justice will be defeated if people have to wait anxiously for two or three years for the settlement of their disputes. In many districts there are posted generally two Subordinate Judges, and it is difficult to understand why Burdwan should not be one of these.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

12. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th March has received the following complaints against Mr. Morshead, Deputy Commissioner of Purulia, from a correspondent writing from the Sonthal Parganas:—

The correspondent prefaces the complaints by saying that he is not surprised at the serious charge against Mr. Morshead published in the last issue of this paper; for such trampling upon justice by young civilians is an inevitable result of the unlimited powers with which they are vested.

In February last, Mr. Morshead paid a visit to the Gobindapur subdivision. It would have been surprising if his comet-like appearance had not been attended with some evil or other. While staying in Gobindapur, Mr. Morshead happened to direct his thoughts to the affairs of the Raja of Jharia, an owner of extensive coal-fields in that part of the country. He concluded that it was necessary to appoint an English manager for the Raja's estate. But as trying the effect of persuasion with the Maharaja did not seem to him to be the best way of increasing his fame and importance, Mr. Morshead set to work in hot temper. He found Babu Pareshnath Ghosh, the late Assistant Manager of the Court of Wards, Manbhum, in the act of arranging the papers of the Jharia estate. This was enough to show Mr. Morshead that the Assistant Manager was opposed to his project. Mr. Morshead, therefore, ordered Paresh Babu to leave Jharia within 24 hours, and threatened him, saying that if he failed to do so, his application for pension would be opposed. Alarmed at this, Paresh Babu left the place in three or four hours. Three or four days after this, the Rural Sub-Registrar of Gobindapur received an order from Mr. Morshead, in the evening, to see him at Topchanchi, 20 or 22 miles from Gobindapur, the day following that on which he should receive the order. It has transpired that Mr. Morshead ordered the Sub-Registrar at the interview to persuade his brother, on pain of his own transfer to a worse place, to leave the service of the Raja of Jharia. Mr. Morshead had heard that the Sub-Registrar's brother was opposed to the appointment of an English manager. The Sub-Registrar has not been able to persuade his brother to leave the Raja's service, and he is, therefore, every moment in fear of the consequences of Mr. Morshead's displeasure.

On his arrival at the subdivisional head-quarters, Mr. Morshead had the local pleaders and mukhtars summoned before him, and asked them how Mr. Ainslie was behaving towards them after the High Court's decision in the dispute between them and that officer. After receiving their answer to the question, he harshly rebuked them, telling them that they were to blame in the matter of their quarrel with Mr. Ainslie, and expressed his displeasure with the pleader-class in general and the native press by saying that they were the root of all mischief. Mr. Morshead also said that nobody should interrupt him while he was speaking. Mr. Morshead must have come to know of the guilt of the pleaders by some intuitive process, for he made no proper enquiry into the matter, and did not even ask the pleaders any questions on the subject.

The Editor has not yet been able to learn what Mr. Morshead is doing with regard to the Jharia estate. But it is said that a correspondence is going on with the view of getting the Sub-Registrar transferred. These things, trifling as they may appear, possess a deep significance. The Editor will spare no pains to make the authorities attend to the various irregularities in Gobindapur. Mr. Morshead's conduct will form the subject of an interpellation in the next sitting of the Bengal Legislative Council. The reply to it will show what Sir Alexander Mackenzie thinks of the matter. Mr. Morshead should not, however, become uneasy on this account, for by so doing the Editor is only paving the way for his promotion. In this country oppression and wrongdoing is always rewarded with promotion!

HITAVADI.

13. The same paper says that Kumar Ramendra Krishna, Deputy Magistrate of Serampore, was guilty of illegal and improper investigation by Kumar Ramendra Krishna. An improper conduct in carrying on an investigation in the case of embezzlement against Debendra

Nath De. Debendra Nath was accused of having misappropriated the sum of Rs. 11-5-10, which he had realised from a woman named Haridasi Dasi. That the Deputy Magistrate made use of the most objectionable means to get Haridasi to identify the accused will appear from the deposition of Haridasi in Court as well as from the remarks of Maulvi Buzlal Karim, the Deputy Magistrate who tried the case. Haridasi deposed as follows:—

The first day when the accused and another Babu were shown to me standing along with other Babus, I said that none of them had taken the money. Even when I was summoned before the Kumar the next day I said that I could not identify the accused. Hearing this reply, the Kumar said: "The woman will not tell anything. Send her to *hajut*; call the Police Inspector." When the Police Inspector appeared, the Kumar said: "The woman does not tell anything; keep her in *hajut*." Hearing this, the daroga took me to the thana. The *bara* daroga had the *chota* daroga summoned to the place, and bade me tell the truth. I was then taken to the room of the chaukidars, next to the *hajut* room. Both the darogas went into that room. I was there asked to tell the whole truth. But I was not then threatened further. I came out of that room crying. I got terribly frightened when the Kumar ordered that I should be taken to *hajut*, and my alarm increased when the two darogas took me towards the chaukidars' room, &c., &c. On appearing before the Kumar, I said: "I identify Debendra."

The remarks of Maulvi Buzlal Karim are as follows:—

Thus, from the evidence of Haridasi, who is supported on the point by the testimony of most reliable persons, it appears clear that the woman did not identify the accused until she was made over to the custody of the police, and was subjected to some harassment.

Again, the next witness, Babu Parmeswar Mukherjee, also speaks of the whispering of clerk Narain Banerjee and of the Inspector to the enquiring officer in his Court and of the woman's detention in the *hajut*. The third witness, Babu Debi Charan Bhattacharjee, also speaks of the woman having been committed to *hajut* by the orders of the enquiring officer before she actually identified the accused before him and also of the woman crying bitterly before the identification. These witnesses, or some of them, also speak of the remarks of the enquiring officer to the accused by his name regarding his dress before his identification by the woman. Thus, it is clear that the identification of the accused was conducted in a most unwarranted and unprecedented way, and no Court could be justified in placing any credence on such flimsy identification as described above.

I have been asked by the learned pleader for the defence to enter into certain observations as to the procedure adopted by the enquiring officer in the case, specially with regard to the identification of the accused, but I do not think it to be my province or my duty to make any unnecessary or uncalled for observations on the proceedings and what has been disclosed before me in evidence. It is sufficient only for the purpose of this case to say that the procedure adopted by the enquiring officer cannot be warranted by law: a witness, so far as I am aware of, cannot be subjected to such a restraint as is disclosed in the evidence of this case. The records will speak for themselves. As for the proceedings of the officer who held the enquiry, I am but constrained in saying that they look to me to be novel and unprecedented.

It is acts of this nature which bring discredit on the Administration, and if the authorities do not see this, we can do nothing in the matter.

The writer entreats Sir Alexander Mackenzie to enquire into this matter. Will the administration be carried on in this way under British rule? Does anything at all resembling this happen in any civilised country?

14. The same paper publishes the following alleged correspondence between Mr. Morshead and Mr. Maseyk in addition to what it published in its last issue (see Report on Native Papers, of 28th March 1896, paragraph 10):—

PURULIA,

The 8th November 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MASEYK,

I would take the case myself but it is not one that can be tried summarily. As I am on transfer very soon, it would have to be tried over again by my

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

successor. Mr. B. has misgivings about the Deputy Collectors, and I wish to satisfy him that I am doing the best I can for him, and this I can only do by making it over to you. I hope you will take the case under the circumstances though I am sorry for troubling you.

L. F. MORSHEAD.

*The 8th November 1895.*

MY DEAR MORSHEAD,

I would rather not take up Mr. Bidwell's case, as I know him to be one of the most troublesome old men going. Not that I have to say anything against his character. He is an awful worry, and I feel sure I will have no peace so long as I have his case on my file. Possibly you have also come to understand him by this time. If you, however, wish that I should try the case, I am agreeable to go on with it.

Thanks, many, for your good wishes anent the Gangpur billet that has been offered me. I believe it needs to be confirmed by the Commissioner.

Thanks very much also for recommending me for 1st class powers.

C. H. MASEYK.

Who will decide whether these letters are genuine or not? Do offers of a billet in the Gangpur estate and of 1st class powers really aid the administration of justice in British territory? But we will say nothing till we know what Government has to say on the subject.

15. The same paper learns, from a respectable correspondent, that Babu

Atulchandra Basu, clerk in the English Department of the Calcutta High Court, is not satisfied with collecting from Munsifs and Subordinate

Judges votes for university fellowships. He is in the habit of making more substantial collections from them in the shape of subscriptions in aid of a school at his residence, Baranagore, near Calcutta. Sometime ago he wrote to a Subordinate Judge, who had delayed to respond to his demand for subscriptions, in this haughty style: "What do you mean by your silence?"

16. The *Pratikar* of the 27th March says that the work of the Lalbagh Munsifi, in the Murshidabad district, having been transferred to the file of the Second Munsif, in Barrampore, heavy arrears have accumulated in his hands. It is, indeed, impossible for one Munsif to

to go through the work which fully occupied two Munsifs, and the present arrangement is likely to injure litigants. It is necessary that the question of maintaining or abolishing the Lalbagh Munsifi should be soon settled, for it is a serious inconvenience to have a court some days in one place and some days in another. The writer has always advocated the amalgamation of the Lalbagh and Azimganj Munsifis, with the cutcherry located in some convenient place within the amalgamated jurisdiction. A just Government should look after the convenience of its subjects.

17. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th March draws the attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the following letter of a correspondent:—

On the 1st March last Mr. Balthazar, a Magistrate in Cachar, with first class powers, reported to the Vice-Chairman of the local Municipality that Abhay Charan Patni, a municipal road peon, had on the 28th February entered the room of his servants in a drunken mood and created disturbance there. The Vice-Chairman was requested to send the peon to the Magistrate. The poor peon, fearing that the Magistrate would beat him, declined to go. He was suspended for a month for creating disturbance in the Magistrate's house. The peon, however, denies the charge. He says that on the 27th February he met a woman of ill fame in the keeping of the Magistrate, standing in a public place. He asked her why she was standing there, and had an altercation with her. On the 12th March the Magistrate again called upon the Vice-Chairman to send the peon to him. The Vice-Chairman being out of town, the Magistrate had the peon arrested, and brought before him. Abhay Charan was soundly thrashed by the Magistrate, and the Vice-Chairman was told that this punishment was inflicted on him because he had abused his servants and him also in their presence. It is said

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

PRATIKAR,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

A clerk in the English Department of the High Court.

The question of the abolition of the Lalbagh Munsifi, in the Murshidabad district.

A peon beaten by a Magistrate.

that the poor peon will be dismissed. The Vice-Chairman is a just man: will he allow a poor man to be thus deprived of his bread? Will not the good Deputy Commissioner of Cachar do justice to the injured peon?

18. The *Bangavasi* of the 28th March observes that Babu Sasisekhar Datta, Deputy Magistrate, Berhampore, is making himself notorious by his high-handed acts. He earned great notoriety as Subdivisional Officer of Tangail

Babu Sasisekhar Datta, Deputy Magistrate of Berhampore. (in the Mymensingh district) and of Kandi (in the Murshidabad district), and he is now asserting himself in his old familiar way in Berhampore. It is said that he conducts himself most uncourteously towards all who come into contact with him, and does not even hesitate to insult men of position. Ill treatment by European officials may be bearable, but the high-handedness of native officials is unbearable to their countrymen. It is to be hoped, however, that Datta Babu will soon mend his ways; otherwise it will go hard with him during the rule of Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

19. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 29th March says that the prevalence of theft and dacoity in the country and the inability of the authorities to check it, make it necessary that the people should possess themselves of firearms. But licenses for

Licenses for fire arms. firearms are being granted this year in limited numbers, none but zamindars, talukdars and people in their position being able to secure them. And the licenses granted to these men do not authorise their servants to use their firearms, a fact which makes the grant of these licenses almost useless.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

CHINSURA VARTA-  
VAHA,  
Mar. 29th, 1896.

20. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th March says that the proposals of the Bengali in the Calcutta University, regarding an extended use of Bengali in the Calcutta University, will do

a good deal of harm if they are carried out. That University graduates read Sanskrit is simply because the subject is included in the curriculum of the F.A. and B.A. Examinations, and the substitution of Bengali for Sanskrit in those examinations will be, therefore, calculated to completely put a stop to its study. If the object of the *Parishad* in making the proposals is to secure means for developing the Bengali language, their object can be gained in other ways and without abolishing the study of Sanskrit in the University. No one who does not desire to see the teaching of English stopped in Bengal will be disposed to support the *Parishad's* proposal about making Bengali the language of history, geography, mathematics, &c., in the Entrance Examination. If this proposal is accepted by the Senate, the day will not be far distant when one will see graduates coming out of the Calcutta University, utterly ignorant of English. The Senate should on no account accept such revolutionary proposals.

21. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th March complains that not a single Sanskrit-knowing man has this time been returned to the Syndicate from the Faculty of Arts. Some fear that

No Sanskrit-knowing man in the Syndicate. this may prejudice the cause of Sanskrit in the University. For some years past there has been no Sanskrit-knowing member in the syndicate, and the actions of that body in matters connected with Sanskrit have not been entirely satisfactory. A pandit without any knowledge of English was appointed an examiner in Sanskrit for the last B.A. Honours Examination. Many questions in the honours papers have to be answered in English, and candidates for Honours write at option many of their answers in English. How will that examiner then examine the answer-papers?

22. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 28th March says that the appointment of Bengali text-books for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination, containing lessons drawn from Hindu mythology, does harm to Musalman boys in more ways than one. The necessity of

Muhammadan objection to the Bengali course for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination. learning lessons, the subject-matter of which, though familiar to Hindu boys is quite unfamiliar to Musalman students, is a strain on the mental faculties of the latter. And the learning of lessons containing instruction from Hindu religious and mythological works not only militates against the religious

CHARU MIHIR,  
Mar. 24th, 1896.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

principles of Muhammadan boys, but also throws obstacles in the way of the development of their religious instincts. At the last examination one of the questions asked was why Vishnupriya Ramá, a Hindu goddess, went to live under the sea. Now, what possible benefit is a Musalman candidate expected to derive from learning and keeping his memory loaded with the information which forms the answer to this question? The object of education is not merely to cultivate the intellect, but also to form the character of its recipient. And character can be formed only by a suitable religious education. Is it, then, just that Musalman boys, instead of being taught lessons from their own religion, should be taught Hindu religious lessons? To remove the anomaly, it will not do to substitute Urdu or Persian for Bengali in the Middle Vernacular Examination. Now that Urdu and Persian have been replaced by Bengali as the court language in Bengal, Muhammadan boys must learn Bengali along with their Hindu fellow-students. They may learn Urdu and Persian leisurely at home with the object of completing their religious education, but they must read Bengali at school. It is necessary, therefore, that the Bengali course selected for the Middle Vernacular Examination should be one free from religious bias. It should contain lessons on natural objects and natural phenomena, and moral and biographical lessons. It would not be a bad plan if Government itself undertook the compilation of one such work every year. That would remove all cause for complaint, and would besides bring large profits to Government.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 31st, 1896.

23. In his City College speech, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 31st March, the Lieutenant-Governor advised the students to learn reverence, "gurubhakti." It cannot but be admitted that "reverence is a quality that is only too often lacking in the youth of the present generation." But the youth of the present generation are not alone to blame for this. The blame does not lie on one side alone. If the students are deficient in respect and reverence, their teachers are none the less deficient in affection and kindness. Reverence on one side means love and affection on another. Want of reverence in the youth of the present generation is due to want of parent-like love and sympathy in their *gurus*. Sir Alexander Mackenzie advocated "flogging soundly administered" in cases in which school-boys persist in "habits of indiscipline" and wrong-doing. Just think of the Lieutenant-Governor advocating flogging in the College of Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose. But it should be understood that the Lieutenant-Governor did not mean to entrust *chaprasis* with the duty of maintaining discipline among schoolboys by administering flogging to them. It need not strike one as strange that the Lieutenant-Governor should have laid much stress on "theism unsectarian" at the prize distribution in a Brahmo College. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie ought to have remembered that though he was distributing prizes in a Brahmo College, he was not the ruler of Brahmos alone. Like Sir Charles Elliott, Sir Alexander Mackenzie is of opinion that the "question of boarding-houses and hostels is a matter of pressing moment." It is no doubt desirable that students should lodge in boarding-houses and hostels rather than in "mess-houses," but it must, at the same time, be admitted that even in boarding-houses and hostels, however well managed they may be, the morals of young men cannot be properly looked after. It is a misfortune that boys and young men should have to flock from the mufassal at the educational centres, and there to live as their own guardians far from the chastening influences of home life. It does not unfrequently happen that a young man receives his education at the cost of his morals. This drawback in the student-life of the present generation cannot be removed by the establishment of boarding-houses and hostels.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 24th, 1896.

24. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 24th March complains that there is great scarcity of water prevailing in Bara Belun, a village under the jurisdiction of the Sahebganj thana in the Burdwan district. All the tanks in the village have dried up. The little water that is still available is muddy and poisonous, and its use has brought about an outbreak of malaria and cholera.

If there be no rains for some days more, the scarcity will be as keenly felt as it was some nine years ago when famine broke out in the village. There are none in the village to dig a tank or well, and the Government, therefore, should come to the rescue of the villagers.

25. The *Sahachar* of the 25th March has the following:—

Water-scarcity in the mufassal. The first half of Chaitra is past, and still not a drop of rain anywhere. In the mufassal things are going from bad to worse. Cholera is raging fearfully, especially in villages in which there is a great scarcity of drinking water. Our ancestors lived in ease and plenty, and thus had the means and the inclination to undertake works of charity and public beneficence. But, thanks to western civilisation, people now find the greatest difficulty in earning their daily bread, and few therefore possess the means to pay for works likely to benefit the public. Formerly excavation of tanks was considered by the Hindus as one of the principal means of acquiring religious merit, and wealthy men had one or more good tanks excavated in every village for the benefit of its poor. It is therefore no wonder that twenty or thirty years ago cholera was not heard of in the mufassal. But what a sad change has now taken place in the condition of the villages. There is a scarcity of drinking water all over the country. Owing to the failure of the rains last year the tanks received no supply of water; and water-scarcity, therefore, has begun to be felt from the beginning of the cold weather. There has been no rain as yet, and the little water that was left in the tanks has either dried up or has become foul and offensive. Even this limited supply, noxious as it is, is not accessible to all. In not a few villages in the country there is a regular row and scramble for it among the inhabitants every morning and evening. How long will this state of things last? Gradually the khals and beels in the country are becoming dry. The heat is becoming fiercer; cholera is decimating the population. Whole villages in Howrah, Hooghly and Nadia have lost most of their inhabitants, and turned into veritable cremation grounds; and the survivors will very probably soon die of thirst. Again, there are villages which do not possess even one foul tank, such as we have described above, and the inhabitants of which have every day to go a distance of five or six miles in quest of water. Some villages, indeed, possess large tanks, but as these have silted up and their owners have not the means to reclaim them, the villagers derive little benefit from their existence. Sir Charles Elliott has indeed done a service to the people of these provinces by passing the Drainage Bill, but it is a matter of regret that he could not be made to see how much more necessary it was to provide for water-supply in the mufassal than to make arrangements for improving the drainage of the country. If Sir Charles had now come on a visit to Bengal, he would have seen that it is he who is mainly responsible for the water-scarcity which at this moment afflicts its inhabitants. But let that pass. Government should be up and doing. There is no time to lose or deliberate, for in another month most places in Bengal will not have any water left in them. The only way that is now open to the public, is the sinking of a large number of wells all over the country. But where is the money required for the purpose to come from? The question is really a difficult one. We ask the present generous Governor of the province, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, to devise the necessary means, for we are convinced that it is he alone who will be able to save the people at this crisis. But the zamindars as well as the raiyats, all District Boards as well as the general population, should co-operate with Government in solving this vital problem of water-scarcity. The District Board of the 24-Parganas has very wisely ordered the excavation of fifty wells in places under its jurisdiction. But though the measure will be extremely inadequate for the needs of the district, it is welcome as a step taken in the right direction. It is to be regretted that the Hooghly District Board has refused to spend money for this purpose.

26. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 26th March says that a

The Muhammadan burial-ground in Calcutta. proposal has been made by the Calcutta Municipality to remove the Muhammadan burial-ground from its present site to some place in the outskirts of Calcutta, and to raise a fund for purchasing the land by levying a tax upon the Musalman community. But there are many people in Calcutta who will be

*SAHACHAR,*  
Mar. 25th, 1896.

*DARUSSALTANAT*  
AND *URDU GUIDE*,  
Mar. 26th, 1896.

unable to bear this tax. The above scheme of the Calcutta Municipality has induced the Gorakhpur Municipality to make a similar attempt to remove the Muhammadan burial-ground from within the town. The proposal of the Calcutta Municipality is seriously exercising the minds of the Muhammadan residents of Calcutta.

PRATIKAR,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

27. The *Pratikar* of the 27th March has the following about water-scarcity in the mufassal:—

Water-scarcity in the mufassal.

All rivers, streams, *beels* and *jheels* have dried up;

nor is there water in the wells. Piteous cries for water are rising in all directions. Throughout the province there is a want of that without which no man can live for a moment in this hot weather. Government does its best to save the lives of its subjects in times of food scarcity by supplying grain from all parts of the country, but it is heedless when its subjects are almost dying for want of drinking water. Money can supply this want; but those who have money look more to their own needs than to those of the public. The pious men who excavated tanks in the villages are gone, and their descendants have either become too poor to keep up the works of their forefathers, or have taken to evil ways, and do not care to maintain them. There is no want of tanks in the villages, but they have become useless for want of repair. Government pledged itself to do this work, when imposing the road and public works cesses, but it has not kept its word. A conference was held at the Lieutenant-Governor's house to devise means for removing the water grievance. But as the outcome of the movement, there came a strange thing. People wanted drinking-water, but they got drains.

HITAVADI.  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th March complains of various irregularities in the work of the Serampore Municipality. The

Irregularities in the Serampore Municipality.

roads are dirty. No road but the Strand is watered.

No hours are fixed for the removal of night-soil, and mehters are found carrying night-soil through the streets at all hours of the day. The tanks are muddy and foul, the municipal tank itself being no exception to the rule.

HITAVADI.

29. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Dacca, complains that the ferryman took two pice from each pilgrim who crossed the river Seetalaksha on the occasion of the last Ashtami bathing festival. If this is a public ferry how could the ferryman take two pice instead of one, which is the usual fare at that ferry? The correspondent is prepared to prove this exaction by the ferryman.

SOM PRakash,  
Mar. 30th, 1896.

30. The *Som Prakash* of the 30th March says that the cries for water which are rising from all directions are such as to melt the hardest heart. Water-scarcity has become severest in the Jessor, Nadia, Hooghly, and the 24-Parganas districts, where almost every reservoir of water has become completely dry. Pure water can be seldom had, and the water that is drunk is filthy water brought from distant places and purified as it can be by the villagers. There has been therefore a severe outbreak of cholera in the province which is depopulating whole villages. No one now excavates or re-excavates tanks; and the rulers, though they sometimes go out on tours, seldom enquire what the wants of the people are. After incessant touring the late Lieutenant-Governor, for instance, came to the conclusion that an improved drainage was a more urgent necessity than even good drinking-water. It is to be hoped that the present Lieutenant-Governor, who has a heart for those that suffer, will pay the same attention to the people's needs in this respect as he has been paying to their other needs and grievances. If he can arrange for the excavation of tanks in the villages, he will not only give life to the mufassal people, but will also make a stock of piety which will last him through this world and the next.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Mar. 30th, 1896.

31. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 30th March says that from some acts of

The election of an official Chair. Mr. Shirres', after he joined the office of the man for a Local Board in the District Magistrate of Dacca, everybody thought Dacca district.

that he would act independently in all matters.

But this impression has been shaken by his conduct in the Nawabpur police case, and in the election of a Chairman for the Munshiganj Local Board. Mr. Orr, District Superintendent of Police, Dacca, seems to think that the District

Magistrate ought to follow his lead. During the late *ashami* bathing festival he found no quarters provided at Langalbandh for the police. He, therefore, concluded that the work of the Local Board was not properly carried on under a non-official Chairman. He converted the Magistrate to his own view, and at the last meeting of the District Board, Mr. Shirres carried, by his casting vote, Mr. Orr's proposal for the election of a non-official Chairman for the Local Board. If the authorities are unwilling to let the people enjoy the small measure of Local Self-Government that has been given them, they are at perfect liberty to take that small measure away, but why do they unjustly blame the people? "You are the masters of the country, and you can do as you please. Hang the dog if you like, but why give it a bad name? Why add insult to injury? Very handsome, indeed, is the reward which Sarat Babu gets for years of ungrudging service rendered to the cause of Local Self-Government. Who would, after this, feel disposed to serve the public? It is to be hoped that the representatives of the people on the Board will not pocket the insult in silence. The law seems to be on their side, and they should not be cowed by official bluster. Babu Kaliprasanna Ghosh and some other members of the District Board are to be praised for the moral courage they displayed in the course of the debate."

32. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 31st March understands that Cholera in Calcutta. the Calcutta Municipality has required medical practitioners in Calcutta to report cholera cases under their treatment; and that if they fail to do so, they will be prosecuted under the Municipal Act. This order of the Calcutta Municipality may, however, prevent medical practitioners from taking up cholera cases.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 31st, 1896.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

33. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Falgun* writes as follows:—

Oppressions on the Assam-Bengal Railway. Though it is only a very short time that the Assam-Bengal Railway has been opened, we have become tired of writing about the oppressions which are committed by the employés on the passengers on that line. It is fortunate that the Traffic Manager takes pains to enquire into every charge that is published against his men. But the following instance will show how his attempts to check oppression and ill-treatment of passengers are frustrated by his subordinates. The charge of extorting money in excess of the proper fare from Babu Ambika Charan Haldar and several others was published some time ago in this paper. The complaint having attracted the notice of the Traffic Manager, he sent an Inspector to enquire into it. There was an interview on the 17th March between Babu Ambika Charan and the Inspector, in which the latter remonstrated with the former for not communicating his complaint, in the first instance, to the Traffic Manager or the Station Master, and for having published it at once in a newspaper. The tenor of the Inspector's conversation showed that, relying upon what the station staff had told him, he disbelieved the complainant's statements, and the Inspector told the complainant that he would be prosecuted. If he is prosecuted, Babu Ambika Charan will be able to prove that the railway employés extorted black-mail from him and other passengers. The Inspector was sent to make an enquiry, and why did he thus bully the complainant? He seemed to have come not to bring out the truth, but to hide the guilt of the station staff. It is hoped that the Traffic Manager will take notice of his conduct, and rate his report at its true worth.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,  
Second fortnight  
of Falgun.

34. The *Sahachar* of the 25th March draws attention to the inconvenience

Wanted a waiting-room at the which is suffered by respectable native ladies Howrah station. travelling by the East Indian Railway for the want

of a waiting-room at Howrah for third and intermediate class female passengers. At present such passengers have to remain sitting or standing on the platform in the midst of the large crowds which gather there.

35. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th March thanks the Viceroy for his order for The Mallikpur case. an enquiry into the Mallikpur railway case. The matter had been hushed up, and but for his order, the offender would not have been punished. Syamadhab Babu, the able Deputy

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 25th, 1896.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

Magistrate of Sealdah, should also be thanked for his zeal and impartiality in the matter. Before receiving the orders of the Supreme Government, the Babu expressed it as his opinion that the matter should not be allowed to be hushed up.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

36. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 28th March writes that on the 24th March last a goods train was outailed near the Halsa station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The Darjeeling Down Mail was thus

Inconvenience of intermediate class travelling.

detained, and the Lieutenant-Governor, who was coming to Calcutta by this train, had to walk about half-a-mile with the other passengers to Halsa where an up mixed train was likewise detained. The passengers of this train had to vacate their seats and walk into the Darjeeling mail, and the passengers of the Darjeeling mail came down to Calcutta by the train detained at Halsa. The Lieutenant-Governor had to travel intermediate class, and he, no doubt, experienced the inconvenience which is every day experienced by native passengers travelling intermediate class on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The difference between the intermediate class and the third class fare is the same as the difference between the second class and the intermediate class fare. But travelling intermediate class is in no way more convenient or comfortable than travelling third class. Intermediate class passengers will heartily thank the Lieutenant-Governor if His Honour takes steps to increase their convenience and comfort, now that he has personally experienced the inconvenience of travelling intermediate class.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 30th, 1896.

37. A Midnapore correspondent of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 30th March says that, according to the provisions of section 17 of Act I of 1894, and under Government orders No. 37, dated the 8th January

1896, the Land Acquisition Deputy Collector of Midnapore sometime ago served notices upon all proprietors, &c., of land in mauzas Debalpur, Kalikadihi and Jhillik Panchbere requiring them to vacate all land in those villages, as it was required for the construction of a central station at Khargapur for the Cuttack-Midnapore-Calcutta extension of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. On receipt of these notices, the villagers submitted a memorial to the District Collector, calling his attention to the hardship to which they would be put if they were dispossessed of lands and homesteads which they had owned for generations, and to the sacrilege which would be committed by the demolition of temples which were very numerous, particularly in mauza Kalikadihi. The memorialists also pointed out that the station might very advantageously be built on the site to the south-west of Khargapur, which was now a forest, and that site would be all the more suitable, as it was more elevated than the surrounding country. The Collector consulted with the District Engineer and the Superintending Engineer, and assured the memorialists that those three villages would not be acquired. After that the Deputy Collector gave a notice, informing the villagers that no land in those villages would, for the present, be acquired. But a survey amin has since come to survey the villages. What does this mean?

The villagers have been seriously inconvenienced by the railway contractors taking water for their bricks from the only tank, called the "Nutan Puskarini," which supplies the men and animals of all the surrounding villages with drinking water. The tank has become nearly dry by reason of this heavy drain.

(h)—General.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Mar. 25th, 1896.

38. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 25th March makes the following statement against the Sub-Registrar of Berhampore, in the Murshidabad district:—

(1) On the 19th March last, the Sub-Registrar refused to register a certain document, because the man who had presented it was staying outside the Sub-Registrar's office-room, and did not come in at the first call. The Sub-Registrar wanted "to teach the man a lesson," and registered the document only after some others had been registered, and the man had appeased him by supplications.

(2) The Sub-Registrar requires his punka-cooly, who is paid by Government, to serve also as his domestic servant. A poor fellow was dismissed

and ill-treated in various ways for having neglected some duty he was asked to perform at the Sub-Registrar's house. Last year a man named Kunja was not only dismissed for a similar fault, but was handed over to the police on a charge of theft. The man having brought a countercharge against the Sub-Registrar, the matter was settled through some people's intervention.

(3) Great delay is made in supplying copies of documents applied for.

(4) The clerks are treated in a very rude and harsh manner. Babu Kailashchandra Sen, who had served for about fifteen or twenty years in sub-registry offices and for one year also as a Sub-Registrar, was considered unfit to serve as head-clerk, and was compelled to retire on pension. Babu Satkari Chattopadhyay was dismissed, and the present head-clerk, too, is desirous of going away elsewhere.

39. The *Sahachar* of the 25th March regrets that the question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam

The question of the transfer of should be still hanging fire. It will be a great political blunder to inflict sufferings on the residents

of a whole Division for the sake of an imaginary advantage. People will be glad to hear that the present Commissioner of the Division, who has more than three years' experience of it, has submitted a protest against the proposed transfer. And the Chief Commissioner of Assam himself, the writer learns from a trustworthy source, is not in favour of the unreasonable proposal. It is probable that the High Court, too, will not lend its support to it. There is a doubt only about the attitude which will be taken up by the Board of Revenue. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that one of the Members of the Board of Revenue has written to an influential resident of the Division, asking him to dissuade his fellow-residents from opposing the Government's proposal, because, though the transfer may not immediately produce beneficial results, it will, in his opinion, do so in course of time. The public will feel grateful to this Member of the Board of Revenue if he will condescend to explain the nature of the benefit which he expects from the proposed redistribution of territories. If Mr. Lyall's and the Government's only argument in favour of transfer be that the opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway will make it a convenient arrangement to place Assam and the Chittagong Division under one Administration, then it is hoped that both the Government and Mr. Lyall will see their mistake and withdraw the proposal. It is hoped that a blunder like the proposed transfer will not be committed under Sir Alexander Mackenzie for whom Bengal cherishes the greatest respect.

40. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 26th March says that the

The post of Medical Super- post of Medical Superintendent, the creation of intendent under the Pilgrims which will be rendered necessary by the Pilgrims Protection law. Protection Bill when passed, ought to be given to a Muhammadan doctor, as Muhammadan pilgrims can refuse to take medical advice from a non-Muhammadan doctor. Doctor Izatulla is recommended for the post.

41. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th March writes as follows:—

Other inconveniences of official tours. We have shown how parties to suits and their pleaders and witnesses have to suffer in consequence of Subdivisional Officers trying cases during tours (see R. N. P. of 21st March 1896, paragraph 28). But there is another class of people whose suffering from that cause has not yet attracted the notice of Government. The class we refer to consists of under-trial *hajat* prisoners, who are dragged from place to place in the train of the touring Subdivisional Officers. Government is well aware how prisoners are overworked and underfed in the jails of this country. But in jails both work and diet are regulated by fixed rules, and inspected by the Head Warden, and occasionally by the Deputy Superintendent, or by the Superintendent himself, whereas *hajat* prisoners accompanying Subdivisional Officers on tours are left entirely at the mercy of the constables in charge. Each prisoner in a jail gets a daily food allowance of four chitaks of rice, three chitaks of pulses, one tola of salt, one tola of oil, some spices, and one seer of fuel. This was not considered enough by the late Sanitary Commissioner, who recommended that prisoners should receive a larger allowance of oil and salt, and should have something in the morning as breakfast. But what is the food allowance which is received by *hajut* prisoners accompanying Subdivisional Officers on tours?—a sum of six

*SAHACHAR,*  
Mar. 25th, 1896.

*DARUSSALTANAT*  
AND *URDU GUIDE*,  
Mar. 26th, 1896.

*HITAVADI,*  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

pice, and that not in advance! The constables are required to supply the prisoners under their charge with food during the tours, and then to recover the cost of such supply from the jail. In the first place, six pice is too inadequate a sum to procure a substantial meal. The poor prisoners therefore often get no more than one meal in the day, and when they get two, the meals are of the coarsest kind. In the second place, the constables are too poor to be able to advance much from their own pockets to procure food for the prisoners, and the result is that they procure supplies of rice from village *mudis*, who are never paid. The poor *mudis* who suffer in this way do not venture to complain to the Subdivisional Officer.

So much for food. The poor prisoners do not fare much better as regards shelter. Tours are generally made by Subdivisional Officers during the rainy or the cold season. Still Government makes no provision for the housing of *hajut* prisoners. Not to speak of a roof, they are not provided even with a tent. The rule requiring the headmen of a village to furnish shelter for such prisoners only gives constables a handle for oppressing villagers.

We say all this because an interest has now begun to be felt generally in the condition of prisoners. How much *hajut* prisoners have to suffer during such tours will be seen by everybody if any member of the Bengal Legislative Council makes an interpellation to the following effect :—

“ How many *hajut* prisoners were taken out of jails and dragged in the train of touring Magistrates during 1895? How many *challaned* prisoners were received in the course of such tours? How many days they spent, on an average, in the mufassal, and how many times were they taken to the mufassal? Did Government make any provision for their food and shelter? If it did not, is it aware what arrangements were made in that respect? What was the cost per head for such prisoners? Was this cost uniform in all districts and all seasons? Will the Government make a general enquiry on the subject and, after such enquiry, issue special instructions to Magistrates as to the way in which the defects which may be discovered in the existing arrangements are to be removed? ”

42. The following letter appears in the *Sanjivani* of the 28th March :—

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

On the 4th December last one Girish Chandra The Post-master of Kedarpur, Sutradhar, of Bishunpur, a village in the Mymensingh.

singh district, registered at the Kedarpur Post

Office, in the same district, a cover containing the halves of eight currency note. of Rs. 100 each. The cover was addressed to one Kanta Chandra Sutradhur, of Goalpara, Assam. When posting the registered cover Girish Chandra was asked by the Post-master, Babu Umesh Chandra Bhattyacharyya, how many half-notes it contained, and when the other halves would be posted. One Sudar Uddin, a postal peon, was present when this question was asked. The question naturally excited the suspicion of Girish Chandra, and he posted the remaining halves of the currency notes at the Nagurpur, instead of at the Kedarpur Post Office. The cover posted at the Nagurpur Post Office reached its destination intact, but the one posted at the Kedarpur Post Office bore marks of having been tampered with. The seal of the sender was broken, and in its place was the seal of the Post Office. One of the eight half-notes was found missing. The sender and the addressee both deposed to the fact at the Goalpara police-station, and also brought it to the notice of the new Post-master of Kedarpur. The new Post-master, instead of inquiring into Girish Chandra's complaint, threatened him with severe punishment if he failed to prove it. The post peon, Sudar Uddin, told the complainant that he would get back his half-note if he presented the Post master with a pair of good *kharams* (a kind of sandals). This the complainant refused to do, and he has not got back his half-note.

The letter is signed as follows :—

Vidyadhar Guha, Head-master, Kedarpur School.  
Rasik Chandra Basu, Head Pundit.  
Chandranath Ray, Second Teacher.  
R. P. Pal, Station-master, Kedarpur.  
Kailash Chandra Bhaumik, Kedarpur.  
Suryya Kumar Mukhopadhyaya, Station-master,  
Kedarpur Station.

43. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 28th March says that under the orders of Government offices and schools should have been closed for the last *Id* festival on the 16th *Id* holiday.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 28th, 1896.

March if the moon had been seen on the 15th, or on the 17th if the moon had not been visible on that day. But the 15th having been a Sunday, many heads of offices and schools observed the holiday on the 16th, especially for the pleasure of enjoying two holidays together. The festival, however, took place on Tuesday, the 17th March. Just fancy the disadvantage which was, for this reason, caused to the Muhammadan students and employés of schools and offices, which were closed on Monday. It is hoped that, in consideration of the difficulty of fixing beforehand the precise dates on which the two *Id* festivals would have to be observed, Government will kindly close its offices for two days at each *Id* festival.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

44. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 29th March has the following:—

The elected members of the Legislative Councils. The foremost among the educated natives who have up to this time taken their seats in the Legislative Councils have never been known to have done

any good to the country. They are, however, most likely to do incalculable harm. They have not up to this time made or amended a law, so as to remove a want or redress a grievance. But the interpellations made by them in the Legislative Councils are sure to bear evil consequences. They are doing the people more harm than good.

DACCA PRAKASH.  
Mar. 29th, 1896.

Take, for instance, the interpellation on Mr. Forbes' circular. It is no doubt highly objectionable to execute a sentence of whipping as soon as it is passed. But the sting will be taken out of this form of punishment if the execution of the sentence is postponed on the accused giving notice of making an appeal. There cannot be the least shadow of a doubt that imprisonment is by far a harder and more cruel form of punishment than whipping. That this is really the case will be admitted by all who know anything of prison life in this country. Under ordinary circumstances, the death-rate among the Indian people is five per thousand, while the death-rate among the jail population is so high, as forty-five per thousand. Those who go to jail are generally strong and healthy adults. Still jail mortality is so high! Among the general population it is the old and the infant that generally succumb to disease. Prison life in this country is life unbearable. And those who do not know this are elected Members of the Legislative Council! Mr. Forbes did incalculable good to the country by issuing a circular that all offenders under 21 should be sentenced to whipping instead of to imprisonment, when that was possible. Mr. Forbes may have made himself liable to blame in the eye of the Government by somewhat mitigating the rigour of its law, but the Hon'ble Member who condemned his circular in the Legislative Council is the greatest enemy of the country.

Take another instance—the interpellation regarding the zamindari dak cess. The postal revenue of the Government has so largely increased that it ought to abolish the zamindari dak cess. The native members of the Legislative Council ought to agitate for the abolition of the cess. But so long as it is not abolished, it is most convenient to those who have to pay it to have its rate fixed for a long time. If the rate of the cess is varied from year to year, the cess-payer is put to unnecessary trouble and expense, and sometimes even to loss. He may not always come to know anything of the variation, the notice intimating it may not be served in time, and if notice is served, the cess-payer must bear the cost. Those who have anything like mufassal experience know how people, sometimes, through ignorance, make default in paying a trifling increase of cess, and have valuable property sold by public auction. Such instances are by no means rare, and it is a pity that the Hon'ble Babu Guru Prasad Sen should not know this, and should protest against the arrangement made by Sir Charles Elliott that the rate of the dak cess should be fixed for five years—an arrangement which has saved many a zamindar from ruin. But such is the ignorance of our educated men and their organs that they are loud in praising Babu Guru Prasad Sen and in condemning

Sir Charles Elliott. And these are the men who pretend to represent the dumb millions of India and defend their rights and interests! They call themselves representatives of the people, while they know nothing of the people's wants and grievances, and think it beneath their dignity to read the newspapers in which their grievances are ventilated. These men are sure to do incalculable mischief to the country.

CHINSURA  
VARTAVAH,  
Mar. 29th, 1896.

45. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 29th March has the following:—

Few can enumerate, much less describe, the network of the law in snares of the law which have been devised by the British ruler for entangling the Indian people.

Turn whichever side you will, you will find law without end—law under the water, law on the land, law on the mountain, law in the forest, law on the road, law in the field, law at home, law on the earth, and law in the sky. The Indian becomes subject to law as soon as he is born, and remains subject to it even after death. There is no escape for him from this eternal subjection to law. It is law that must govern every act of his, whether done for earthly good or spiritual welfare. If an Indian wishes to make a charitable endowment with the desire of securing religious merit, he must make it in strict accordance with the law, or his endowment will not be valid. Of the severity of the laws which the Indian must obey nothing need be said in this place. The Indian is ever full of that fatal poison of the law, and the poison has entered into his very bone and marrow. Who does not know that there are laws relating to birth, laws relating to death, laws relating to a thousand other matters? Even a son, inheriting the property of his father, must prove his relationship to the deceased. It is enough that it is in accordance with law that the Indian must obey even the calls of nature and cohabit with his wife.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 31st, 1896.

The interpellations at the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council.

46. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 31st March comments on the replies to the interpellations at the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council.

Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's reply to the interpellation on Mr. Morshead's circular, the writer observes that it is true that the orders under notice "are indeed distinctly laudable," and that they will ensure a scrutiny into the terms of composition in compoundable cases being made more efficiently than at present. But it does not appear to be always true that Subordinate Magistrates are in the habit of indiscriminately allowing coolly-recruiting cases to be compounded. Mr. Morshead's circular is specially objectionable, on the ground that it is likely to interfere with the judicial independence of the Subordinate Magistrates. But the Lieutenant-Governor does not appear to be in favour of a separation of the executive and the judicial functions, and it is quite natural that he should find nothing objectionable in the judicial independence of Subordinate Magistrates being controlled by their official superiors. The circular no doubt aims at an object distinctly laudable, but it strikes at the root of a judicial principle, and it is desirable that the discretion of Subordinate Magistrates in allowing compromises in coolly-recruiting cases should be controlled by law rather than by the discretion of their official superiors.

Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's reply to the interpellation on Mr. Bidwell's case, the writer observes that he has nothing to say when the Lieutenant-Governor himself assures the public that the Commissioner's warning to Mr. Morshead will be enough to prevent such indiscretion on his part in future. The writer cannot, however, agree with Mr. Cotton that "the case is not a serious one, and it appears clear that no injustice was done." The case is undoubtedly a serious one. Nothing could be more objectionable on the part of a Magistrate than to try to mislead one of his Subordinates, and induce him to commit an act of palpable injustice. Is it not a serious offence on the part of a Magistrate to interfere with the judicial independence of a Subordinate Magistrate by holding out a temptation to him? It appears from Mr. Cotton's reply that the correspondence quoted in the interpellation was placed in the hands of Government by a third party before it was published in the *Hitavadi*. It may be that the Lieutenant-Governor would have more condignly punished Mr. Morshead if his case had not been discussed in the newspapers. People, however, expect to see Sir Alexander Mackenzie following a wiser line of

policy. The public, however, will be glad to see Mr. Morshead taking a lesson from the warning which he has received from the Divisional Commissioner.

Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton's reply to the interpellation on "Conferences of Education Commission," the writer observes that educational conferences as recommended by the Education Commission have never been held. The Education Commission was appointed by Lord Ripon, and if his policy had still been followed, conferences of a public nature would have been held strictly on the lines recommended by the Commission. But the days of Lord Ripon are gone, and the Director of Public Instruction is now the autocrat of the Education Department. Mr. Bolton says by way of silencing public criticism that "since the transfer of large educational duties to District Boards, the necessity for holding conferences occurs less frequently than was anticipated in 1883." This reply is not satisfactory. Lord Ripon, who appointed the Education Commission, also created the District Boards, and he or his Education Commission did not certainly think that the transfer of certain educational duties to District Boards dispensed with the necessity of holding educational conferences. The writer does not think that educational conferences are likely to do any very substantial good to the country, and if he has written so much on the subject, it is simply because he does not like the way in which Mr. Bolton tried to silence public criticism.

Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton's reply to the interpellation on graduate scholarships, the writer does not agree with him that "it is not necessary to offer any special inducements to candidates reading for the M. A. degree." The Education Commission at least did not think so. But then the Education Commission was appointed during the time of Lord Ripon. And in this lies the solution of the question. Mr. Bolton ought not to have brought the "State scholarships" under the category of "graduate scholarships," as recommended by the Education Commission. The Education Commission did not certainly recommend the creation of scholarships which help Indian students in becoming denationalised. The late Babu Bhudev Mukharji was in the Commission.

The writer next turns to the Hon'ble Mr. Risley's reply to the interpellation on water-supply by District Boards. The Hon'ble Babu Guru Prasad Sen observed that the District Boards at present spent forty-three thousand rupees a year on the improvement of water-supply. The District Board's grant on this head should be increased. Mr. Risley showed that Rs. 63,768 was spent on water-supply in 1894-95, and observed that District Boards were urged "to set apart at least Rs. 5,000 a year each for that purpose." Rupees 5,000 for the improvement of water-supply in a district is not much; and as the District Boards are not forbidden to spend more than Rs. 5,000 each, it is expected that if Magistrates do not frustrate their object, the District Boards will spend an adequate portion of the road cess on the improvement of water-supply.

The writer does not think the Hon'ble Mr. Risley's reply on stamp revenue at all satisfactory. Government is put out of temper whenever it is asked to reduce the stamp duty. Mr. Broughton, the late Administrator-General, and the High Court Judges have, however, left no argument unused to prove the desirability of reducing the stamp duty and of not making the administration of justice a source of revenue. But the Government has persistently ignored this advice.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

47. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th March understands that the Nahun Chief is laid up with paralysis and confined to his bed. It is somewhat strange that a strong and healthy young man who was all right not long ago should all of a sudden be seized with paralysis. The correctness of the report of the Maharaja's illness should be ascertained. It is also mysterious that the Raja has been placed under the treatment of a European doctor against his will. This mystery should be solved.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 28th 1896.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 25th, 1896.

48. The *Sahachar* of the 25th March says that cholera is raging so virulently in Garbhabanipur and the neighbouring villages in the Howrah district that the people are deserting their homes. In one of these villages

two hundred deaths occurred in the course of three or four days. People are not burning their dead, but are leaving them on the river side. According to the correspondent who has given this information, so violent an outbreak has not been known to occur for a good many years. It is hoped that the District Magistrate will do his best to save those that still survive.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 27th, 1896.

Oppression in the Port Commissioner's office.

49. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th March has come to know of two more instances of injustice in the Calcutta Port Commissioner's office. An overseer, named Babu Shama Charan Basu, has been dismissed for having asked for three months' leave on medical certificate after 15 years' service, and a draftsman, named Babu Girish Chandra Ghosh, who is going to retire after 28 years' service, has not been granted leave on full pay, to which he is entitled. Such unnecessary harshness only produces dissatisfaction. It is hoped that Mr. Apjohn will remedy these wrongs before he goes on leave.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Mar. 30th, 1896.

50. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 30th March praises Sir Alexander Miller on the eve of his retirement. The responsibilities of a Law Member are great, and Sir Alexander Miller

discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the Indian public. Sir Alexander Miller is the best Law Member that the country has got after Sir Henry Maine. The retiring Law Member never went against public opinion. Witness, for example, the amendments introduced by him into his Jury and Legal Practitioners' Act Amendment Bills out of respect for Indian public opinion. He encouraged native students in opening libraries, and freely and intimately mixed with the people. If all European officials of rank mixed with the people in the way Sir Alexander Miller has done, the breach between the Natives and the Europeans would be closed in no time.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 31st, 1896.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's reply  
to the address of the Indian  
Association.

51. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 31st March has the following:—

In his reply to the address of the Indian Association, the Lieutenant-Governor did not approve of the policy of separating judicial and executive functions in the administration of criminal justice. In His Honour's opinion, "any proposal to change the position and responsibility of the District Officer would require the most serious consideration and the most careful examination, before effect could be given to it in any part of India, even the most advanced." When even Sir Antony Macdonnell has expressed himself against the separation of judicial and executive functions, it is not strange that Sir Alexander Mackenzie would do the same. "I do not believe," says the Lieutenant-Governor, "that there is any such extensive or general executive interference with judicial functions as those who advocate their so-called separation seek to establish." The Lieutenant-Governor thus evidently treats with contempt the opinion of those who find fault with the present system of administration, and ventures to attribute their opinion to want of experience. Nothing but Civilian self-sufficiency could attribute want of experience to men like Sir Richard Garth, Sir Richard Couch, Sir William Markby, Sir John Phear, Sir Raymond West, Lord Hobhouse, Mr. Monmohan Ghose and Mr. R. C. Dutt. There is no doubt that the Civilians in India will, in a body, oppose any proposal to separate judicial and executive functions. That Sir Alexander Mackenzie was not prepared to favourably receive the proposal of the extension of Local Self-Government and of the separation of judicial and executive functions is clear from his preliminary remarks in reply to the address of the Indian Association. "If I were at all a nervous man," said Sir Alexander, "I should begin to feel seriously disturbed at the remarkable unanimity and cordiality of the welcome accorded me by so many different sections of the Bengal community, remembering the Scripture—woe unto thee when all men speak well of thee \* \* \* . We shall, no doubt, in the future have our little tiffs and differences; but we shall, I hope, endeavour always to

discuss and settle them in the spirit of forbearance and true friendship \* \* \* . All I claim from you is a candid consideration of the measures which I may at any time put forward. All I promise you is a candid consideration of the criticism which you may feel called upon to pass on my administration." It is then quite clear that we cannot expect any help from Sir Alexander Mackenzie in the question of a separation of the judicial and executive functions. And if we cannot expect any help from him, we should not expect any help from any other Civilian. The Civilians are the masters of India, and they are resolved to maintain their power and influence intact. In this respect, Sir Charles Elliott, Sir Antony Macdonnell and Sir Alexander Mackenzie are at one. The Lieutenant-Governor says that miscarriages of justice are not very frequent in this country, and they are due only to the unripe experience of young Magistrates of the present day. We do not agree with the Lieutenant-Governor in this, as we know that even Magistrates of ripe experience and long training cause miscarriage of justice. These miscarriages of justice are due to the defective character of the present system of administration, and there is no putting an end to them so long as the system is not altered. There is, however, no need of being disappointed. Much as we regret the unsympathetic reply of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, we have no doubt that greater weight will be attached everywhere to the opinion of the High Court Judges in this matter than to that of the Civilian rulers of India. The English people will not like Sir Alexander treat the opinion of men like Sir Richard Garth and Lord Hobhouse with contempt. Even Lord Kimberley, Lord Cross, and Lord Dufferin could not treat their opinion lightly, and Sir Richard Reid, late Attorney General of England, has given his opinion in favour of a separation of the judicial and executive functions. His opinion cannot but be entitled to the respect of English jurists.

Referring to the cooly question, Sir Alexander Mackenzie observed that, as far as he was concerned, he would be glad to see the cooly Act abolished, but he did not say whether he would try to bring about its abolition. We do not think that the cooly law will be totally abolished. In our opinion there need be no law to defend the interests of the tea-planters. It is the interests of the helpless coolies that want looking after. The law should not be abolished ; it should be amended so as to give greater protection to the coolies.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 4th April 1896.

